AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR

AND

Literary Gazette.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE BOOK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Temporary Committee. WILLIAM H. APPLETON, GEORGE P. PUTNAM.

Communications should be addressed to C. B. NORTON, *Assistant Secretary and Librarian, No. 3 Appletons' Building, Broadway.*

VOL. I.—NO. VIII. NEW YORK, OCTOBER 20, 1855. PRICE $2 A YEAR.

PUBLISHERS: THEIR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE IN THE U. S.

THE PAST.

THE rise and advance of the art of Book Publishing in the United States, is so intimately connected with the growth and progress of American civilization, that a brief review of its history, however imperfect, cannot fail of being interesting to every enlightened reader, as well as to those whose immediate professions, and success in life, are more deeply involved in its past experience and future prosperity. We propose, then, to glance rapidly at the history, condition, and prospects of "the trade," from the feeble beginning of STEPHEN DAYE and SAMUEL GREEN, whose publishing career opened with almanacs and psalm-books, to the present day, when American publishers favor the public with rival and complete editions of the "British Poets," and of the "British Essayists," and when German and French authors are in as great repute in Boston and New York, as they can be in Berlin or Paris! Our subject must be divided into three different and separate parts, the first of which we now lay before our readers; the other two will follow in order, in each successive number of the *Circular*.

In the year of our Lord, 1638, and forty years before printing commenced in any other part of what was then called British America, Rev. JESSE GLOVER, an English dissenting clergyman, accompanied by his family, a printer, and printing apparatus, emigrated for the Colony of Massachusetts. He died during the voyage; the press, type, &c., were carried to Cambridge; and, in the month of January of the following year, by direction of the magistrates, one STEPHEN DAYE commenced printing *The Freeman's Oath*, after which he published an *Almanack!* It does not appear that either of these was, in the literal sense of the word, a *book;* for, in the succeeding year, 1640, he published an edition of the *Psalms in Metre*, translated by the Rev. John Eliot, and by a Rev. Mr. Weld, which (we are assured by the Rev. Thomas Prince, of Boston, in his preface to a revised edition of that work, published in 1758), was "*the first book* printed in North America." In 1649, Mr. Daye was succeeded by SAMUEL GREENE. During the eleven years that the former was a publisher, he issued, among other works, of which we have no record, five Almanacks, two editions of the Psalms, one Catechism, two law-books, and a little work on Astronomy. Although he does not appear to have been well skilled in his art, nor to have executed his work with either taste or excellence, he was favored by the State with three hundred acres of land, in consideration of his being the first publisher. The first publication of Mr. Greene was a 4to., of 44 pp., entitled, "A Platform of Church Discipline." Next year, 1650, he issued Norton's "Heart of New England Rent;" and a new edition of the Psalms, revised and improved. Between this date and 1692, we find that Mr. Greene has formed a business connection with Mr. M. Johnson, and afterwards with his son, Bartholomew Greene; that *eighty-six* different works issued from their press, among which were four catechisms, three of which were in the Indian language; eighteen almanacks, two new editions of the Psalms, one Indian Testament, two editions of the Indian Bible, six books of laws, and fifty-three of a miscellaneous character, including Richard Mather's "Farewell;" John Cotton's "Discourse on Civil Government;" an Indian psalter, Indian grammar, and Indian logic primer, by John Eliot, who translated into the Indian the Bible also. In 1661, Mr. Greene printed an edition of the New Testament, in the Indian; and two years later, an edition of "the Holy Bible," in the same language, appeared, printed by Greene and Johnson. The Old Testament was three years in the press. Twenty-two years later, 1685, a 4to. edition, of two thousand copies, of the same work was published, and was six years passing through the press. Three hundred acres of land were given as a grant, by the State, to Greene. Marmaduke Johnson appears to have published ten books, all of a religious nature. Samuel Greene died January 1st, 1702. His son, Bartholomew, was in business with him a few years, but in 1690 he removed to Boston.

We have dwelt with the Cambridge publishers longer, and have been more minute in our details in relation to them, than space will permit us to remain with those of other towns and cities. We have omitted, however, to state that the press at Cambridge was under the control and censorship of the college; and that it was the only printing press authorized by the Government. But in 1674, John Foster was authorized to set up a press in Boston, under the censorship of Increase Mather and Thomas Thatcher, who were termed "licensers." His first book was printed in 1676, and his latest, probably, in 1683. Foster died in September, the year following. He was succeeded in "the management of the press," by Samuel Sewall, who, from being a magistrate, became a publisher and bookseller. James Glenn took charge of the printing department. Between 1682 and 1776, there were about forty publishers and booksellers in Boston. In less than six years after the City of Philadelphia was founded, a printing press was established there. It was the second of the Colonies where it was introduced. The first publisher in Philadelphia was one William Bradford. The oldest publication bearing his imprint, is an Almanac, for the year A.D. 1687. Two years afterwards, he published a pamphlet in defence of the Quakers, against the puritanical attacks of Cotton Mather. In 1690, he published two more upon the same theme; and still another two years later. Reinier Jansen is the next Philadelphia publisher of whom we have any record. There exists, perhaps, but one book bearing his imprint, which was published in 1699. Between this date and the year 1775, there were, probably, between seventeen and twenty booksellers and publishers in Philadelphia, among whom was the celebrated Benjamin Franklin. He was the partner of one Hugh Meredith. Seven years after his first publication in Philadelphia appeared, William Bradford removed to New York, where he set up the first printing press, established in Manhattan Island! He continued to publish pamphlets, Acts of Assembly, &c., until 1725, when he began the publication of the first newspaper printed in this State. A year later, we find John Peter Zenger printing pamphlets in Smith Street. In 1733 he began the publication of a newspaper, an enterprise that excited the enmity of Bradford. After Zenger's death, his widow kept a pamphlet store. In 1765 John Holt established a bookstore here, in connection with which he seems to have managed a small newspaper. But the first bookseller who carried on the trade to any extent, was James Rivington. He was, in 1760, in partnership with one Brown, a bookseller in Philadelphia; but the year following he removed to New York, and commenced business in Wall Street, still retaining his connection with the Philadelphia house. In 1762 he established a branch house in Boston. Three years after this date, we find a new firm, known as "Hodge & Shober," in the book trade, afterwards "Shober & Loudon," and Samuel Loudon, alone, before the close of the year. The first publisher in Connecticut was Thomas Short. In 1710 he issued, from New London, "The Saybrook Platform of Church Discipline." He was succeeded, in 1714, by Timo-

thy Green, of Boston. The first book, we believe, published in New Haven, was a Latin edition of the Laws of Yale College, which appeared in 1754. It bore the imprint of Parker & Co. Ten years later, this firm was succeeded by Benjamin Mecom, who had in turn as successor, Samuel Green, in 1767. In Rhode Island, the first publisher was Gregory Dexter. In 1643 he issued "A Key to the Language of the Indian Natives of Narraganset." James Franklin was a Rhode Island publisher; he died in 1735; was succeeded by his widow, who took into partnership Samuel Hall, by whom, after his death, the business was managed. Publishing was not introduced into Maryland until the latter portion of the eighteenth century. The first work that was published in this State, was a German edition of the Bible, printed by Nicholas Hasselboct.

We have now presented the reader with a brief sketch of the history of the first introduction of the Press into the American colonies, and of the progress which was made in the extension of knowledge, and the means whereby knowledge is attained, up to the period of our Revolution. Those we have mentioned as "Publishers" in the foregoing rude sketch, would hardly be honored with that title if they existed at the present time, and carried on such a business as they then did. Many of them were never known to have printed aught that was of more importance than a sermon or an almanac; and the workmanship displayed in the printing of whatever was published, during this period, seems to have been in most cases, exceedingly wretched. The Puritanical zeal in printing and circulating the Bible, and in excluding from the press every thing not evangelical, retarded considerably the progress that publishing must inevitably have made, if the Press was more free. But whatever may have been the errors of our ancestors, and of the early pioneers who first introduced the Press into this country, they merit the unqualified thanks and respect, not only of the American citizen, but of every enlightened thinker in the civilized world. If their minds were narrowed by religious prejudices, they carried with them the fault from their native lands; nor did the "mother country" ever seek to soften or alleviate those passions! On the contrary she fostered and engendered them. Indeed, the first edition of the English Bible, published at Boston, bore the London imprint, in order to avoid a prosecution from the English and Scotch houses, who published the sacred volume by a patent from the "King's most Excellent Majesty." But from this feeble beginning, the publication of the Bible has gradually advanced, and grown with the growth of the country, until it forms now one of the most gigantic and noble institutions in the land.

It is not our purpose to chronicle the progress of the trade, since the Revolution to the present time. This has been recently done by a literary gentleman, of national reputation, in a complete and satisfactory manner. His articles appeared first in the columns of the New York *Tribune*, in 1854; and were afterwards revised by the author, and reprinted in *Norton's Literary Gazette*. To travel the path that he has gone over, would be alike useless and uninteresting; yet, in our next article, we shall see that within the memory of this generation, houses have arisen, like the mustard tree, from the most feeble imaginable foundations, to a degree of wealth, magnitude, and importance, hardly equalled by any similar establishments in the world. We shall also see, that the art of printing has been carried to a wonderful perfection, in this country, within the last twenty years; that the demand for a standard literature has gradually advanced, and the national intellect become developed; and from these facts, and other positive *data*, we shall endeavor to develope the future prospects of THE AMERICAN PUBLISHER. We think that we will be able to prove satisfactorily, that before the close of the nineteenth century we shall have in this country the greatest reading community that the world has yet seen.

We may add, finally, that the number of publishers and booksellers in the colonies, of which we have been enabled to find any record, previous to the Revolution, numbers about one hundred and forty; but we have not space to give a history of each, and a mere catalogue of names and dates would be alike uninteresting and useless.

(FROM A BOOKSELLER IN MASSACHUSETTS.)

September 5th, 1855.

CHAS. B. NORTON, Esq.

SIR,—Enclosed find two dollars, being one year's subscription to the "Literary Gazette."

Believing, as I do, that the "Publishers' Association" is destined to accomplish much good, I would beg to suggest for early consideration or discussion, the relation in which the publisher and retailer stand to each other. In one city, at least, I can assert that the public can purchase from publishers their own or other publications, in very small quantities, at prices differing little, if any, from what retailers have to pay. This I consider a grievance, and I think in justice ought to be rectified. Not a day goes by without proofs of this being given. Individuals step in and ask the price of, say a $1 25 book, the publisher's price is given, when they exclaim,—"Oh, we can obtain it by express lower than that; we can have it for a dollar." Thus the retailer is without the protection which in justice ought to be guaranteed him.

Hoping I have not trespassed too much upon your valuable time, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

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(FROM A BOOKSELLER IN CANADA.)

September 12th, 1855.

To the Editor of the American Publishers' Circular and Literary Gazette.

SIR,—In the second number of the Circular there is a long discussion concerning the coming Trade Sale, and it takes especial notice of the country buyers. I wish some of the Association would contrive to arrange a depot where all books could be obtained irrespective of the publisher, but at the publisher's prices. To explain more fully what I mean. I have an order for six books, all different publishers. If I write to my general agent, in nine cases out of ten I shall be charged considerably higher than if I got it from the publisher direct, but the public here will not pay me a cent more than the published price. Again, if I write to the publishers direct, they do not care for small orders, the expense of carriage and postage would more than swallow up the profit. I can assure you that here the trade is very much puzzled in ordering from the States, &c., as it is impossible for them to know the names of the publishers of the various works that issue weekly from the press. I have addressed these few lines to you in hopes that the Association will take the matter in hand, for it is of great consequence to the buyer and seller. To the former, so that they may be able to procure the books readily and at the cheapest rates; to the latter, that they may have every convenience of getting their books into a thorough and effective circulation.

I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

* * * *

Literary Intelligence.

DONATION TO THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Joseph Story, Esq., President of the Common Council, and one of the Trustees of the Public Library, is now on a short visit to England. Letters were received from him by the steamer Atlantic, stating that he had received as a donation to the public library, from Bennett Woodcroft, Esq., Superintendent of Specifications, &c., in the Patent Office at London, a complete set of all the publications relative to patents made by the Commissioners of that office. This donation amounts to nearly two hundred volumes, imperial octavo; each volume of specifications being accompanied by a sheet imperial volume of lithographic illustrations.

TRIBUTE TO STRUGGLING GENIUS.—Frances Browne, an unfriended poetess, in England, recently contributed to the "Athenæum" a poem of much merit, called "Is it Come?" The poem attracted the notice of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who, hearing that the author was poor, immediately sent her $500.

St. Petersburg journals announce that an exhibition of fine arts will be held in that capitol this year, in spite of the war.

The late Joseph P. Fairbanks, of Johnsbury, Vt., bequeathed ten thousand dollars to Middlebury College, ten thousand dollars to constitute a fund for the support of aged and infirm ministers, and a like sum in aid of poor young men preparing for the ministry.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has been lecturing in Louisville.

James J. Sylvester, formerly professor of mathematics in the University of Virginia, has been appointed to the responsible office of examiner in chief to the artillery and royal engineers at Woolwich.

Books Received

AT THE OFFICE OF THE "AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR," SINCE OCTOBER 13.

*** Publishers are particularly requested to mark the price of each Book, sent to the Publishers' Circular, on the Title-Page.

From J. S. Redfield, New York.

Japan, and Around the World: an Account of Three Visits to the Japanese Empire, with Sketches of Madeira, St. Helena, Cape of Good Hope, &c. By J. W. Spaulding. 12mo. 378 pp.

The Private Life of an Eastern King. By a Member of the Household of his late Majesty King of Oude. 12mo. 246 pp.

From Stringer & Townsend, New York.

Frank Leslie's Portfolio of Fancy Needle-work. Large 4to. 92 pp.

Omar Pasha; or, The Vizier's Daughter. By G. W. M. Reynolds. 8vo. 209 pp.

From Bunce & Bro., New York.

The Old Homestead. By Mrs. Ann S. Stephens. 12mo. 436 pp.

From Applegate & Co., Cincinnati.

The Nightingale; or, Normal School Singer. Designed for Schools, &c., on a Mathematically Constructed Plan of Notation. By A. D Fillmore. Oblong 4to. 120 pp.

From J. M. Wilson, Philadelphia.

The Withered Leaf: a Discourse, by Rev. James M'Caskee. 8vo. 15 pp.

From Leavitt & Allen, New York.

Sweet's Oratorical Reader; comprising a great variety of New and Excellent Pieces. Illustrated by Elocutionary and Biographical Notes. By Samuel Niles Sweet. 12mo. 424 pp.

From M. W. Dodd, New York.

The Contrast between Good and Bad Men: illustrated by the Biography and Truths of the Bible. By Gardiner Spring, D. D., LL. D. 2 vols. 8vo. 834 pp.

From Joel Munsell, Albany.

American Geology; containing a Statement of the Principles of the Science, with full Illustrations of the Characteristic American Fossils. With an Atlas, and a Geological Map of the United States. By Ebenezer Emmons. Vol. I. 8vo. 446 pp.

From R. Carter & Bros., New York.

The Task: a Poem. By Wm. Cowper. Illustrated by Birket Foster. 8vo. 264 pp.

From Dix & Edwards, New York.

Twice Married: a Story of Connecticut Life. 12mo. 264 pp.

From T. B. Peterson, Philadelphia.

The Deserted Wife. By Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth. 12mo. 586 pp.

Calderon, the Courtier. By Sir E. L. Bulwer. 8vo. 32 pp.

The Schoolboy, and other Stories by the Christmas Fire. By Charles Dickens. 8vo. pp. 82.

Seven Poor Travellers; in Eight Chapters. By Charles Dickens. 8vo. 42 pp.

From Robert B. Collins, New York.

An Introduction to Physiology; designed for the use of Students and of the General Reader. By M. La Borde, M. D. 12mo. 394 pp.

A Compend of History, from the Earliest Times. By Samuel Whelpley, A. M. With Corrections, Important Improvements, and Additions, by Rev. Joseph Emerson. New Edition, brought down to the Present Day, by Samuel Emerson, A. M. 12mo. 568 pp.

List of Announcements

OF FORTHCOMING WORKS BY VARIOUS PUBLISHERS.

*** Publishers will confer a favor by sending their new publications as rapidly as issued, that they may be withdrawn from the following list, and inserted in the list of new books.

BOSTON.

Little, Brown & Co.

A Treatise on the Law of Railways. By Isaac F. Redfield, LL. D., Chief Justice of Vermont.

Contributions to the Natural History of the United States. By Louis Agassiz. 10 vols. 4to.

The Works of John Adams. With a Life of the Author, by his Grandson, Charles Francis Adams. Vols. 1 & 10.

The British Essayists. With Prefaces Historical and Biographical. By A. Chalmers, F. S. A. 38 vols. 16mo.

The Essays of Lord Bacon. With a Life and Notes by different writers. 1 vol. 16mo.

The Poetical Works of John Skelton. 3 vols. 16mo.

The Poetical Works of Dr. John Donne. 1 vol. 16mo.

The Poetical Works of Lord Byron. 8 vols.

The Poetical Works of Thomas Hood. Vol. 3.

The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore. 6 vols.

The Poetical Works of James Montgomery. 4 vols. 16mo.

Leading Cases in Admiralty and Shipping, with Notes and Commentaries. 1 vol.

Arbitration at Common Law, in Equity, and under the Statutes of the States of the United States. By Hon. Edward G. Loring.

Commentaries on Criminal Law. By Joel Prentiss Bishop, Esq., Author of "Commentaries on the Law of Marriage and Divorce."

A Treatise on the Law of Sales. By C. Blackburn. With Additions, Notes, and References, by William P. Wells, Esq.

The Revised Code of North Carolina. 1 vol. 8vo.

A Collection of Leading Cases in various branches of the Criminal Law, with Notes. By B. F. Butler and F. F. Heard, Esquires. 2 vols.

A Treatise on the Construction of the Statute of Frauds. By C. Browne, Esq.

A Treatise on the Law of Highways, Dedication of, Travellers, Travelling, &c. By Joseph K. Angell, Esq.

The Principle and Rules of Law regulating the Property of Husband and Wife; and Civil Actions therefor. By Hon. Edward G. Loring.

The Elements of Mercantile Law. By Hon. Theophilus Parsons, LL. D., Professor in the Law School of Harvard University.

A Treatise on Maritime Contracts. By Hon. Theophilus Parsons.

Introduction to American Law. By Hon. Timothy Walker, LL. D., of Cincinnati. Third Edition, revised.

Ware's Reports of Cases argued and determined in the District Court of the United States for the District of Maine. Second Edition, revised and corrected by the Author.

The Law of Vendors and Purchasers of Real Property. By Francis Hilliard, Esq.

Tudor's Leading Cases on the Law relating to Real Property, Conveyancing, and the Construction of Wills. By Owen D. Tudor, Esq., of the Middle Temple. With Notes, by a Member of the Boston Bar. 1 vol. Will be published at an early day.

The Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, with Notes and a Digest. By Hon. B. R. Curtis. Vols. 7 & 9.

English Law and Equity Reports. Vols. 29, 30.

Gray's Massachusetts Reports. Vol. 2.

United States Statutes at Large. Vol. 10.

American Railway Cases. Vol. 2. 8vo.

J. Munroe & Co.

Vol. 9 Hudson's Edition of Shakspere.

Heath & Graves.

Illustrations of Scripture. By Rev. Horatio Hackett, D. D.

Rambles about Boston.

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History of the Reign of Philip II. By William H. Prescott. Two vols. of this work will be ready Dec. 1st.

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